

Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

Washington, DC 20219

Corporate Decision #97-57
July 1997

June 30, 1997

Ms. Liz Allen
Vice President
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2150
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Allen:

This is to advise you that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC") today approved the Bank's application for permission to establish a branch at 9232 Miramar Road, Miramar, California.

As you are aware, an adverse CRA comment was received from a Mr. Alfred T. O'Sullivan which caused us to remove the application from the expedited review procedures. Mr. O'Sullivan indicated that a charitable group, with which he was affiliated, had not received a favorable response to a request for the donation of computer equipment. He also requested we review Wells' CRA activities. After investigating the issues raised by Mr. O'Sullivan and the Bank's CRA performance, we concluded that approval of the branch was warranted. A copy of our letter to Mr. O'Sullivan is attached.

If the branch is not opened within eighteen months from this date, the approval will automatically terminate unless the OCC grants an extension. The Bank must advise this Office in writing at least ten days before the proposed branch opening date so that we may issue the necessary authorization letter.

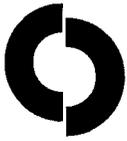
In no event should the branch be opened for business until the OCC has issued the necessary letter of authority.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard T. Erb
Licensing Manager
Control Nr. 97-ML-05-0318

attachment



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Washington, DC 20219

June 30, 1997

Mr. Alfred T. O'Sullivan
5605 Old Ranch Road
Oceanside, California 92057-5615

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan:

This is in regards to your May 19, 1997 letter protesting a pending application by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. ("Wells") to establish a branch in Miramar, California. Please be advised that we approved that application today.

As you are aware from previous communications, we investigated the concerns you raised in your protest. In your letter, you related that a request, which you believed had been made by a Mr. Harold Cutler, Director of the Brother Benno Foundation, for a donation of surplus computer equipment from Wells had been denied. You requested that this "office review the community reinvestment activities of Wells Fargo before issuing any approval for new branch offices in San Diego County particularly in the northern section of this County." In responding to your request, we noted that the Miramar application was the only pending Wells application for a site in San Diego County.

We forwarded a copy of your letter to Wells, which replied that it had no record of the correspondence. Subsequent inquiries on our part revealed that the Director's name began with a "K", and that the request had been made by a Mr. Leo Rainville rather than Mr. Kutler. Mr. Rainville did not recall to whom he addressed the letter or from which Wells official he received a reply.

Prior to rendering a decision on the application, we did consider Wells' performance under the Community Reinvestment Act ("CRA"). Our most recent full-scope CRA examination is dated March 31, 1996 and resulted in Wells being accorded a composite performance rating of "Outstanding". During that examination, we reviewed the bank's charitable contributions and a copy of the relevant pages of the resulting "Public Evaluation" of Wells' performance is enclosed for your information. You may note, for example, that our examination revealed Wells had made grants, among others, to a needy shelter organization in the San Diego area. The examination confirmed that Wells has historically been responsive to community needs of the type you indicate the Brother Benno Foundation addresses.

Mr. O'Sullivan

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More recently, we conducted a targeted review of Wells' record of opening and closing branches. We found that, during the twelve months ending March 31, 1997, Wells had increased its branch presence in low- and moderate-income areas. In light of your concerns, we also reviewed Wells' contributions in the San Diego area in 1996. During that year, Wells made over \$1 million of contributions to ninety area organizations.

In summary, based upon Wells' record of performance, we determined that an approval of the Miramar branch application was consistent with the CRA.

I enjoyed discussing this matter with you. Please feel free to call me at (202) 874-5060.

Sincerely,

/s/

Alan Herlands
Director, Licensing Policy and Systems